

Children With Special Health Care Needs

Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) have or are at risk of having a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition that generally requires health and related services of a type or amount beyond what most children need. It is estimated that 19,500, or 12.4 percent of North Dakota children under the age of 18 have a special health care need.

Facts

- **Boys** (14.7 percent) are more likely to have a special health care need than girls (10 percent).
- **Special health care needs are more prevalent in older children.** Only 6.8 percent of North Dakota children aged 0-5 have a special health care need compared to 14.3 percent of children aged 6-11 and 15.3 percent of children aged 12-17.
- Children **living in poverty** (18.5 percent) are more likely to have a special health care need than children with family incomes between 100 and 199 percent of the federal poverty level (11.8 percent).
- **American Indian children** are more likely to have special health care needs in North Dakota.
- Almost 13 percent of North Dakota children under age 18 have been told they have **asthma** at some point in their lives. Seventy-five percent of these children still have asthma (9.6 percent prevalence rate).¹
- One child in every 300 children enrolled in the North Dakota Medicaid program has **diabetes**. The diabetes rate is substantially higher among American Indian children.
- Each year, between two and three percent of North Dakota children are born with a **structural birth defect**. Congenital heart defects are the most common.
- **Special education** programs serve more than 13,000 children aged 3 - 21 each year in North Dakota. The most common eligibility categories include "learning disabilities" and "speech/language impaired," but the fastest growing eligibility categories are "emotional disturbance" and "other health impaired."
- In state fiscal year 2003, the **Children's Special Health Services program** in the N.D. Department of Human Services **served 1,337 children.**

Sources:

National Children with Special Health Care Needs Survey, 2002 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, N.D. Medicaid Program, N.D. Birth Defects Monitoring Program, N.D. Department of Public Instruction, N.D. Dept. of Human Services Children's Special Health Services Program

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